



FEDERAL HIGHWAY
ADMINISTRATION
Western Federal
Lands Highway
Division

CONSTRUCTION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 05
June 2, 2006



MEDICINE LAKE
NATIONAL WILDLIFE
REFUGE

MEDICINE LAKE HEADQUARTERS PARKING AREA

MONTANA REFUGE ROAD PROJECT MELA 900(1)

Work at the refuge is progressing very well. The contractor has now removed nearly all of the old asphalt and concrete surfaces. The excavation to make room for the subgrade rock is at about 40% completion, with now 1200 cubic yards of dirt having been removed. The excavation will gain momentum next week as the work up till now has come with restrictions. The areas have had overhead power lines, underground utilities and tight quarters to work the excavator. In many of those areas the excavator has worked one bucket at a time. Digging up one-bucket of dirt, then back out of the area in order to drop that one-bucket load into the truck, a very slow and tedious process. In spite of the confined locations the excavator operator Dwight has shown he can get the job done.

Sheridan Ready-mix put on their new belly dump and tractor on the haul today, which really helped move in more rock. Today we had three belly dumps and one single end dump moving in rock. I would estimate that by tonight we would be close to having 1000 cubic yards of rock in place.

We are continuing to get good results in the compaction of that rock. They are laying out the rock in layers and after a good wet down with the water truck its hammered with the two rollers. We have noticed that given a day to set that rock is like concrete.

Next week more of the same, we will be excavating out more of the existing and laying in the Geotextile fabric followed with the rock layers. We just might finish with the excavation next week, maybe. If we do the project will be ahead of schedule.

Federal Highway Administration
Chuck Mikkola, Project Engineer
(406) 789-2305 ext. 105

RB Constructors, LLC
Bert Truxal, Pres; Richard Wilson Foreman
208-656-9404

TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, SEND YOUR REQUEST TO charles.mikkola@fhwa.dot.gov
